

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 15-1520V

Filed: March 22, 2017

\* \* \* \* \*

TRACY MOLLICA *Parent, on behalf of,*  
A.M. *a minor child,*

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

\* \* \* \* \*

Nicholas E. Bunch, White, Getgey & Meyer, Cincinnati, OH, for petitioner.

Lisa A. Watts, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

UNPUBLISHED

Special Master Gowen

Joint Stipulation on Damages;  
Influenza (“Flu”) Vaccine;  
Seizures; Limbic Encephalitis

### **DECISION ON JOINT STIPULATION<sup>1</sup>**

On December 15, 2015, Tracy Mollica (“petitioner”) filed a petition on behalf of her minor child, A.M., pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to 34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that as the result of A.M.’s receipt of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine on December 18, 2012, A.M. suffered seizures and limbic encephalitis. Stipulation at ¶¶ 2, 4.

On March 22, 2017, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine administered

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<sup>1</sup> Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this ruling on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b).

<sup>2</sup> The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

to A.M. caused her alleged seizures, limbic encephalitis, or any other injury, and further denies that A.M.'s current disabilities are the sequelae of a vaccine-related injury. Stipulation at ¶ 6. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that petitioner shall receive the following in compensation:

- a. **A lump sum of \$82,500.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner as guardian/conservator of the estate of A.M. for the benefit of A.M., representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). No payment shall be made until petitioner provides respondent with documentation establishing that she has been appointed as the guardian/conservator of A.M.'s estate.**

Id. at ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

s/Thomas L. Gowen  
Thomas L. Gowen  
Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

TRACY MOLLICA, Parent, on behalf of,  
A.M., a minor child,  
  
Petitioner,  
v.  
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES,  
  
Respondent.

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**ECF**  
No. 15-1520V  
Special Master  
Thomas L. Gowen

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

2. A.M. received the flu vaccine on December 18, 2012.

4. Petitioner alleges that A.M. suffered seizures and limbic encephalitis, which were caused-in-fact by the flu vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that A.M. suffered the residual effects of her injuries for more than six months.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on behalf of A.M. as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine administered to A.M. caused her alleged seizures, limbic encephalitis, or any other injury, and further denies that A.M.'s current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$82,500.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner as guardian/conservator of the estate of A.M. for the benefit of A.M, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). No payment shall be made until petitioner provides respondent with documentation establishing that she has been appointed as the guardian/conservator of A.M.'s estate.

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioners have filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and her attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.

§ 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of A.M. as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. Petitioner represents that she presently is, or within 90 days of the date of judgment will become, duly authorized to serve as guardian/conservator of A.M.'s estate under the laws of the State of Tennessee. No payments pursuant to this Stipulation shall be made until petitioner provides the Secretary with documentation establishing her appointment as guardian/conservator of A.M.'s estate. If petitioner is not authorized by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian/conservator of the estate of A.M. at the time a payment pursuant to this Stipulation is to be made, any such payment shall be paid to the party or parties appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction to serve as guardian(s)/conservator(s) of the estate of A.M. upon submission of written documentation of such appointment to the Secretary.

14. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in her individual capacity and as legal representative of A.M., on behalf of herself, A.M., and A.M.'s heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that



have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300 aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of A.M. resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccine administered on December 18, 2012, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about December 15, 2015, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 15-1520V.

15. If A.M. should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

16. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

17. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 12 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

18. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the flu vaccine caused A.M.'s alleged seizures,

limbic encephalitis, or any other injury, or that her current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

19. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns as legal representatives of A.M.

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END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,

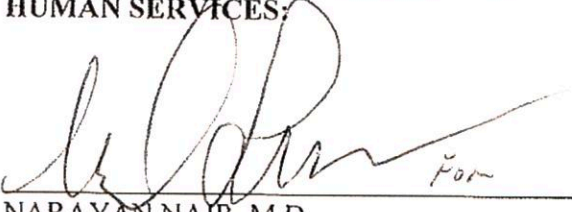
**PETITIONER:**

  
TRACY MOLLICA

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
PETITIONER:**

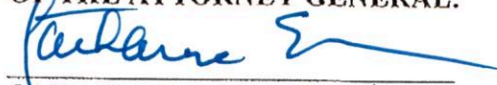
  
NICHOLAS E. BUNCH, ESQ.  
WHITE, GETGEY & MEYER, L.P.A.  
1700 Fourth & Vine Tower  
1 West Fourth Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Tel: (513) 241-3685

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES:**


  
NARAYAN NAIR, M.D.  
Director  
Division of Injury Compensation Programs  
Healthcare Systems Bureau  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Parklawn Building, Stop 08N146B  
Rockville, MD 20857

DATE: 3-22-2017

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

  
CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR  
RESPONDENT:**

  
LISA A. WATTS  
Senior Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch  
Civil Division  
U. S. Department of Justice  
P. O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044-0146  
Tel: (202) 616-4099